

# FOW

So large  
The prospect was, that here and there was room  
For barren desert *fountainless* and dry. *Milton's Parad. Reg.*  
**FOUNTAINFUL**. *adj.* [*fount* and *full*.] Full of springs.  
But when the *fountainful* Ida's top they scald with utmost  
haste.  
All fell upon the high-hair'd oaks. *Chapman's Iliads.*  
**TO FOUPE**. *v. a.* To drive with sudden impetuosity. A word  
out of use.  
We pronounce, by the confession of strangers, as smoothly  
and moderately as any of the northern nations, who *fourpe*  
their words out of the throat with fat and full spirits. *Camden.*  
**FOUR**. *adj.* [*prope*, Saxon.] Twice two.  
Just as I will'd, the lots were cast on *four*;  
Myself the fifth. *Pope's Odyssey*, b. ix.  
**FOURBE**. *n. f.* [*French*.] A cheat; a tricking fellow. Not  
in use.  
Jove's envoy, through the air,  
Brings dismal tidings; as if such low care  
Could reach their thoughts, or their repose disturb!  
Thou art a false impostor, and a *fourbe*. *Denham.*  
**FOURFO'LD**. *adj.* [*four* and *fold*.] Four times told.  
He shall restore the lamb *fourfold*, because he had no pity.  
*2 Sa. xii. 6.*  
**FOURFO'OTED**. *adj.* [*four* and *foot*.] Quadruped; having  
twice two feet.  
Augustus, whose art in vain  
From fight diffused the *fourfooted* train,  
Now beat the hoof with Nectus on the plain. *Dryden.*  
**FOURSCORE**. *adj.* [*four* and *score*.]  
1. Four times twenty; eighty.  
When they were out of reach, they turned and crossed the  
ocean to Spain, having lost *fourscore* of their ships, and the  
greater part of their men. *Bacon's War with Spain.*  
The Chios were first a free people, being a common-  
wealth, maintaining a navy of *fourscore* ships. *Sandys.*  
The Liturgy had, by the practice of near *fourscore* years,  
obtained great veneration from all sober Protestants. *Clarend.*  
2. It is used elliptically for *fourscore* years in numbering the  
age of man.  
At seventeen years many their fortunes seek;  
But at *fourscore* it is too late a week. *Shak. As you like it.*  
Some few might be of use in council upon great occasions,  
'till after threecore and ten; and the two late ministers in  
Spain were so 'till *fourscore*. *Temple.*  
**FOUR SQUARE**. *adj.* [*four* and *square*.] Quadrangular; having  
four sides and angles equal.  
The temple of Bel was invironed with a wall carried *four-*  
*square*, of great height and beauty; and on each square cer-  
tain brazen gates curiously engraven. *Relig's History.*  
**FOURTEEN**. *adj.* [*prope*, Saxon.] Four and ten; twice  
seven.  
She says I am not *fourteen* pence on the score for sheer ale.  
*Shakespeare's Taming of the Shrew.*  
**FOURTEENTH**. *adj.* [*from fourteen*.] The ordinal of fourteen;  
the fourth after the tenth.  
I have not found any that see the ninth day, few before the  
twelfth, and the eyes of some not open before the *fourteenth*  
day. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*, b. iii. c. 26.  
**FOURTH**. *adj.* [*from four*.] The ordinal of four; the first  
after the third.  
A third is like the former: filthy hags!  
Why do you shew me this? A *fourth*? start eye!  
What! will the line stretch out to th' crack of doom? *Shak.*  
**FOURTHLY**. *adv.* [*from fourth*.] In the fourth place.  
*Fourthly*, plants have their feed and seminal parts uppermost,  
and living creatures have them lowermost. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*  
**FOURWHEELED**. *adj.* [*four* and *wheel*.] Running upon twice  
two wheels.  
Scarce twenty *fourwheel'd* cars, compact and strong,  
The maffy load could bear, and roll along. *Pope's Odyssey.*  
**FOUTRA**. *n. f.* [*from foudre*, French.] A fig; a scoff; an act  
of contempt.  
A *foutra* for the world, and worldlings bafe. *Shak. H. IV.*  
**FOWL**. *n. f.* [*fuigel*, ruhl, Saxon; *vegel*, Dutch.] A winged  
animal; a bird. It is colloquially used of edible birds, but in  
books of all the feathered tribes.  
The beasts, the fishes, and the winged *fowls*,  
Are their males subjects, and at their controuls. *Shaksp.*  
Lucullus entertained Pompey in a magnificent house: Pom-  
pey said, this is a marvellous house for the Summer; but me-  
thinks very cold for Winter. Lucullus answered, do you not  
think me as wife as divers *fowls*, to change my habitation in  
the Winter season. *Bacon's Apophthegms.*  
This mighty breath  
Instructs the *fowls* of heaven. *Thomson's Spring.*  
**TO FOWL**. *v. n.* [*from fowl*.] To kill birds for food or  
game.  
**FO'WLER**. *n. f.* [*from fowl*.] A sportsman who pursues birds.  
The *fowler*, ward  
By those good omens, with swift early steps  
Treads the crimp earth, ranging through fields and glades,  
Offensive to the birds. *Phillips.*

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With laugh'ring guns th' unwear'd *fowler* roves,  
When frosts have whiten'd all the naked groves. *Pope.*  
**FO'WLINGPIECE**. *n. f.* [*fowl* and *piece*.] A gun for birds.  
'Tis necessary that the countryman be provided with a good  
*fowlingspiece* to destroy and scare them away. *Mortimer.*  
**FOX**. *n. f.* [*fox*, Saxon; *vois*, *voelch*, Dutch.]  
1. A wild animal of the canine kind, with sharp ears and a  
bully tail, remarkable for his cunning, living in holes, and  
preying upon fowls or small animals.  
The *fox* barks not when he would steal the lamb. *Shaksp.*  
He that trusts to you,  
Where he should find you lions, finds you hares;  
Where *foxes*, geefe. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*  
These retreats are more like the dens of robbers, or holes  
of *foxes*, than the fortresses of fair warriors. *Locke.*  
2. By way of reproach, applied to a knave or cunning fellow.  
**FOXCASE**. *n. f.* [*fox* and *case*.] A fox's skin.  
One had better be laughed at for taking a *foxcase* for a fox,  
than be destroyed by taking a live fox for a case. *L'Estrange.*  
**FOXCHASE**. *n. f.* [*fox* and *chase*.] The pursuit of the fox  
with hounds.  
See the same man, in vigour, in the gout;  
Alone, in company; in place or out;  
Early at business, and at hazard late;  
Mad at a *foxchase*, wife at a debate. *Pope, Epistle i.*  
**FOXEVIL**. *n. f.* [*fox* and *evil*.] A kind of disease in which the  
hair sheds.  
**FOXGLOVES**. *n. f.* A plant.  
The leaves are produced alternately on the branches: the  
cup of the flower consists of one leaf, which is divided into  
six ample long segments: the flower consists of one leaf, is  
tubulose and compressed, and a little reflexed at the brim:  
these flowers are disposed in a long spike, and always grow  
upon one side of the stalk: the ovary of the flower becomes a  
roundish fruit, which ends in a point, and opens in the middle:  
it has two cells, in which many small seeds are con-  
tained. *Miller.*  
**FOXHUNTER**. *n. f.* [*fox* and *hunter*.] A man whose chief  
ambition is to shew his bravery in hunting foxes. A term of  
reproach used of country gentlemen.  
The *foxhunters* went their way, and then out steals the  
fox. *L'Estrange, Fable 104.*  
John Wildfire, *foxhunter*, broke his neck over a fix-bar  
gate. *Spenser, No. 561.*  
**FOXSHIP**. *n. f.* [*from fox*.] The character or qualities of a  
fox; cunning; mischievous art.  
Hadst thou *foxship*  
To banish him that struck more blows for Rome,  
Than thou hast spoken words. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*  
**FOXTRAP**. *n. f.* [*fox* and *trap*.] A gin or snare to catch  
foxes.  
Answer a question, at what hour of the night to set a  
*foxtrap*. *Taller, No. 56.*  
**FOY**. *n. f.* [*foi*, French.] Faith; allegiance. An obsolete  
word.  
He Easterland subdued, and Denmark won,  
And of them both did *foy* and tribute raise. *Fairy Queen.*  
**TO FRACT**. *v. a.* [*fractus*, Latin.] To break; to violate; to  
infringe. Found perhaps only in the following passage.  
His days and times are past,  
And my reliance on his *fractured* dates  
Has smit my credit. *Shakespeare's Timon.*  
**FRACTION**. *n. f.* [*fraction*, Fr. *fractio*, Latin.]  
1. The act of breaking; the state of being broken.  
It hath been observed by several, that the surface of the  
earth hath been broke, and the parts of it dislocated; but more  
particularly several parcels of nature retain still the evident  
marks of *fraction* and ruin. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*  
2. A broken part of an integral.  
Neither the motion of the moon, whereby months are  
computed, nor the sun, whereby years are accounted, con-  
sisteth of whole numbers, but admits of *fractions* and broken  
parts. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*, b. iv. c. 13.  
Pliny put a round number near the truth, rather than a  
*fraction*. *Arbutnot on Coins.*  
**FRACTIONAL**. *adj.* [*from fraction*.] Belonging to a broken  
number.  
We make a cypher the medium between increasing and  
decreasing numbers, commonly called absolute or whole num-  
bers, and negative or *fractional* numbers. *Cocker's Arithmetick.*  
**FRACTURE**. *n. f.* [*fractura*, Latin.]  
1. Breach; separation of continuous parts.  
That may do it without any great *fracture* of the more  
stable and fixed parts of nature, or the infringement of the  
laws thereof. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*  
2. The separation of the continuity of a bone in living bodies.  
But thou wilt sin and grief destroy,  
That so the broken bones may joy,  
And tune together in a well-tet song,  
Full of his praises,  
Who dead men raises;  
*Fractures* well cur'd, make us more strong. *Herbert.*  
*Fractures*

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*Fractures* of the skull are dangerous, not in consequence of  
the injury done to the cranium itself, but as the brain becomes  
affected. *Sharp's Surgery.*  
**TO FRACTURE**. *v. a.* [*from the noun*.] To break a bone.  
The leg was dressed, and the *fractured* bones united toge-  
ther. *Wifeman's Surgery.*  
**FRAGILE**. *adj.* [*fragile*, French; *fragilis*, Latin.]  
1. Brittle; easily snapped or broken.  
To ease them of their griefs,  
Their pangs of love, and other incident throes,  
That nature's *fragile* vessel doth sustain  
In life's uncertain voyage. *Shakespeare's Timon.*  
The stalk of ivy is tough, and not *fragile*. *Bacon's N. Hist.*  
When subtle wits have spun their threads too fine,  
'Tis weak and *fragile*, like Arachne's line. *Denham.*  
A dry stick will be easily broken, when a green one will  
maintain a strong resistance; and yet in the moist substance  
there is less rest than in what is drier and more *fragile*. *Glanv.*  
2. Weak; uncertain; easily destroyed.  
Much ostentation, vain of fleshly arms,  
And *fragile* arms, much instrument of war,  
Long in preparing, soon to nothing brought,  
Before mine eyes thou'rt set. *Milton's Paradise Regain'd.*  
**FRAGILITY**. *n. f.* [*from fragile*.]  
1. Brittleness; easiness to be broken.  
To make an induration with toughness, and less *fragility*,  
decoct bodies in water for two or three days. *Bacon's N. Hist.*  
2. Weakness; uncertainty; easiness to be destroyed.  
Fearing the uncertainty of man's *fragility*, the common  
chance of war, the violence of fortune. *Kneller's History.*  
3. Frailty; lability to fault.  
All could not be right, in such a state, in this lower age of  
*fragility*. *Watson.*  
**FRAGMENT**. *n. f.* [*fragmentum*, Latin.] A part broken  
from the whole; an imperfect piece.  
He who late a sceptre did command,  
Now grasps a floating *fragment* in his hand. *Dryden.*  
Cowley, in his unfinished *fragment* of the Davides, has  
shewn us this way to improvement. *Watts's Improvement.*  
If a thinned or plated body, which, being of an even thick-  
ness, appears all over of one uniform colour, should be slit  
into threads, or broken into *fragments* of the same thickness  
with the plate, I see no reason why every thread or *fragment*  
should not keep its colour. *Newton's Opt.*  
**FRA'GMENTARY**. *adj.* [*from fragment*.] Composed of frag-  
ments. A word not elegant, nor in use.  
She, the is gone; she's gone: when thou know'st this,  
What *fragmentary* rubbish this world is,  
Thou know'st, and that it is not worth a thought;  
He knows it too too much that thinks it nought. *Denne.*  
**FRAGOR**. *n. f.* [*Latin*.] A noise; a crack; a crash.  
Pursu'd by hideous *fragors*, as before  
The flames descend, they in their breaches roar. *Sandys.*  
**FRA'GRANCE**. *n. f.* [*fragrantia*, Lat.] Sweetness of smell;  
**FRA'GRANCY**. *s.* pleasing scent; grateful odour.  
Eve separate he spies,  
Veil'd in a cloud of *fragrances*, where the flood  
Half-spy'd. *Milton's Paradise Lost*, b. ix.  
I am more pleas'd to survey my rows of coleworts and cab-  
bages springing up in their full *fragrancy* and verdure, than to  
see the tender plants of foreign countries kept alive by artifi-  
cial heats. *Addison's Spectator*, No. 47.  
Not lovelier seem'd Narcissus to the eyes;  
Nor, when a flower, could boast more *fragrancy*. *Garth.*  
Such was the wine; to quench whose fervent steam  
Scarce twenty measures from the living stream  
To cool one cup suffic'd: the goblet crown'd,  
Breath'd aromatic *fragrances* around. *Pope's Odyssey*, b. ix.  
**FRA'GRANT**. *adj.* [*fragrans*, Latin.] Odorous; sweet of  
smell.  
The nymph vouchsaf'd to place  
Upon her head the various wreath:  
The flow'rs, less blooming than her face;  
Their scents, less *fragrant* than her breath. *Prior.*  
**FRA'GRANTLY**. *adv.* [*from fragrant*.] With sweet scent.  
As the hope begin to change colour, and smell *fragrantly*,  
you may conclude them ripe. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*  
**FRAIL**. *n. f.*  
1. A basket made of rushes.  
2. A rush for weaving baskets.  
**FRAIL**. *adj.* [*fragilis*, Latin.]  
1. Weak; easily decaying; subject to casualties; easily de-  
stroyed.  
I know my body's of *to frail* a kind,  
As force without, fevers within can kill. *Davies.*  
When with care we have rais'd this imaginary treasure of  
happiness, we find, at last, that the materials of the structure  
are *frail* and perishing, and the foundation itself is laid in the  
sand. *Rogers's Sermon 5.*  
2. Weak of resolution; liable to error or seduction.  
The truly virtuous do not easily credit evil that is told them  
of their neighbours; for if others may do amiss, then may

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these also speak amiss: man is *frail*, and prone to evil, and  
therefore may soon fall in words. *Taylor's Guide to Devotion.*  
**FRA'ILNESS**. *n. f.* [*from frail*.] Weakness; instability.  
There is nothing among all the *frailnesses* and uncertainties  
of this sublunary world so tottering and unstable as the virtue  
of a coward. *Norris.*  
**FRA'ILTY**. *n. f.* [*from frail*.]  
1. Weakness of resolution; instability of mind; infirmity.  
Though Page be a secure fool, and stands so firmly on his  
wife's *frailty*, yet I cannot put off my opinion so easily. *Shak.*  
Nor should'st thou have trusted that to woman's *frailty*:  
Ere I to thee, thou to thyself wast cruel. *Milton's Agonistes.*  
God knows our *frailty*, pities our weakness, and requires  
of us no more than we are able to do. *Locke.*  
2. Fault proceeding from weakness; sins of infirmity.  
Love did his reason blind,  
And love's the noblest *frailty* of the mind. *Dryd. Ind. Emp.*  
Kind wits will those light faults excuse;  
Those are the common *frailties* of the muse. *Dryden.*  
Death, only death, can break the lasting chain;  
And here, ev'n then, shall my cold dust remain;  
Here all its *frailties*, all its flames resign,  
And wait, 'till 'tis no sin to mix with thine. *Pope.*  
**FRA'ISCHUR**. *n. f.* [*French*.] Freshness; coolness. A  
word foolishly innovated by Dryden.  
Hither in Summer-ev'nings you repair,  
To taste the *frischur* of the purer air. *Dryden.*  
**FRAISE**. *n. f.* [*French*, the caul of an animal.] A pancake  
with bacon in it.  
**TO FRAME**. *v. a.*  
1. To form or fabricate by orderly construction and union of  
various parts.  
The double gates he findeth locked fast;  
The one fair *fram'd* of burnish'd ivory,  
The other all with silver overcast. *Spenser.*  
2. To fit one to another.  
They rather cut down their timber to *frame* it, and to do  
other such necessities to their convenient use, than to fight.  
*Abbot's Description of the World.*  
Hew the timber, saw it out, *frame* it, and set it together.  
*Mortimer's Husbandry.*  
3. To make; to compose.  
Then chusing out few words most horrible,  
Thereof did verses *frame*. *Spenser.*  
Fight valiantly to-day;  
And yet I do thee wrong to mind thee of it;  
For thou art *fram'd* of the firm truth of valour. *Shaksp.*  
4. To regulate; to adjust.  
Let us not deceive ourselves by pretending to this excellent  
knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord, if we do not *frame* our  
lives according to it. *Tillotson.*  
5. To form to any rule or method by study or precept.  
Thou art their soldier, and, being bred in broils,  
Hast not the soft way; but thou wilt *frame*  
Thyself forsooth hereafter theirs. *Shaksp. Coriolanus.*  
I have been a truant to the law;  
I never yet could *frame* my will to it,  
And therefore *frame* the law unto my will. *Shaksp. H. VI.*  
6. To form and digest by thought.  
The most abstruse ideas are only such as the understanding  
*frames* to itself, by joining together ideas that it had either from  
objects of sense, or from its own operations about them. *Locke.*  
Full of that flame his tender scenes he warms,  
And *frames* his goddess by your matchless charms. *Grave.*  
Urge him with truth to *frame* his sure replies;  
And sure he will; for wisdom never lies. *Pope's Odyssey.*  
How many excellent reasonings are *framed* in the mind of a  
man of wisdom and study in a length of years? *Watts.*  
7. To contrive; to plan.  
Unpardonable the presumption and insolence in contriving  
and *framing* this letter was. *Clarendon, b. viii.*  
8. To settle; to scheme out.  
Though I cannot make true wars,  
I'll *frame* convenient peace. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*  
9. To invent; to fabricate, in a bad sense: as, to *frame* a story  
or lie.  
Astronomers, to solve the phenomena, *framed* to their con-  
ceit eccentricks and epicycles. *Bacon.*  
**FRAME**. *n. f.* [*from the verb*.]  
1. A fabric; any thing constructed of various parts or mem-  
bers.  
If the *frame* of the heavenly arch should dissolve itself, if  
celestial spheres should forget their wonted motions, and by  
irregular volubility turn themselves any way, as it might  
happen. *Hooke, b. i. f. 3.*  
Castles made of trees upon *frames* of timber, with turrets  
and arches, were anciently matters of magnificence. *Bacon.*  
These are thy glorious works, parent of good!  
Almighty! thine this universal *frame*. *Milt. Parad. Lost.*  
Divine Cecilia came,  
Inventress of the vocal *frame*. *Dryden.*